

4-H

NEWSLETTER

September & October 2023



University of Illinois Extension, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit



Spanglers Recognized



Checkrow Volunteers club leaders Bruce and Sharon Spangler wrapped up the 2022-2023 4-H year, each with 50 years of volunteer service as club leaders under their belts. These 50 years times 2, do not reflect the years prior to that each served their community as 4-H volunteers. At the heart of their volunteerism, however, is a desire to better the community, to

Photo by Holly Spangler
give back to the county and the fair, and the local young people, to give them a chance to speak in public, to lead and to learn new skills. Through their years as club leaders, Bruce and Sharon have impacted an estimated 250 4-H members. One of their goals as leaders: to teach young people to give back, through community service projects that involve food drives, nursing home visits and local cemetery clean-ups. They've taken 4-H into the local schools and brought members into their home to learn sewing and textiles skills. They've taught young people to care for animals and to develop good stockmanship and showmanship skills. They've taught the value of hard work and the joy of new skills (information collected from Spangler Family 4-H story).

Daughter-in-law Holly shared the following about Sharon. "I think one of the most memorable parts of Sharon's 4-H experience is the number of young people she's taught to sew. I can't even begin to put a number to it, but every spring, she has a revolving door of young people coming in to sew garments, pillows and more with

her. And every stitch and seam had to be 'state fair quality' – or they'd have to rip it out and try again. She developed some really wonderful relationships with so many of those members, far beyond her own club." Sharon was inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame in 2008, and the Spanglers won the 4-H Family Spirit Award in 2015.

Bruce and Sharon exemplify the 4-H motto, "To make the best better." Thank you both for your dedication and devotion to the Fulton County 4-H program. Your combined love of 4-H and service to community has impacted more people than you know.

CONGRATULATIONS...

to 4-H members who showed projects this 4-H year at the various county livestock shows, General Show, Fulton County Fair, and Illinois State Fair! You make Fulton 4-H proud!

Newsletters are Going Digital!

Starting in January, the 4-H newsletter will be delivered electronically (Please see the back page of this newsletter). We want to make sure you continue to receive all the important information in our county 4-H program and 4-county unit. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the eBlast, please follow the information listed on the back page so that we can update our records. You may also contact the office at 309-547-3711 and speak with Rachel, Deb, or Krista to request the paper copy be mailed to you. We want to help you!

New Family Welcome Meeting

Please join us for the New Family Welcome Meeting on Thursday, October 5, from 6 – 7:30 in the basement meeting room of the Extension office. You do not need to be a brand-new family this year to attend. More information may be found toward the end of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you there!

Club Leader & Officer Training

Our 4-county unit is hosting a Club Leader and Officer training in Pekin on November 4. Please try to join us for this informative day full of tips and tricks to be a successful club leader and youth officer. Learn from other volunteers and officers. For more information, please see additional information at the end of the newsletter.



National 4-H Week

We will be observing National 4-H Week during the week of October 1 – 7. Please be on the lookout for window displays and posters in your community. This is an excellent opportunity to catch a potential new member's attention. The theme for our 4-county unit is "Make Time for 4-H".



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Unit 4-H Staff

In our four-county Extension unit, a team works together to provide 4-H programming. Each county has an individual 4-H program plus we all work together on unit-wide events and program planning.

Krista Gray

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

Rachel Van Cleve

4-H Program Coordinator, Fulton County

Joli Pierson

4-H Program Coordinator, Mason County

Kristi Smith

4-H Program Coordinator, Peoria County

Katharine Girone

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

Lynda Sharp-Lower

4-H Program Coordinator, Tazewell County

Emily Schoenfelder, 4-H Youth Educator

Judy Schmidt, Metro 4-H Youth Educator

Earl Allen, County Director

Deb Balagna, Fulton County Office Support

Paula Lane, Mason County Office Support

Angela Sassine, Peoria County Office Support

Julann Schierer, Tazewell County Office Support

October

5—New Family Meeting 6 p.m. -Extension Office

5—Cloverbud Cuties Meeting - 6 p.m.

16—Leader's Meeting - 6:30 p.m. Extension Office

21—Fall Achievement Program at 3 p.m. Fulton County Fairgrounds

November

4 - Club Leader & Officer training- 9:30 a.m. Pekin

24-Thanksgiving -office closed

25- Office closed

New 4-H Year Began September 1

Welcome to the new 4-H Year! We are excited to start another year with each member and their family. Whether you are involved in one of our 13 multi-project community clubs, one or more of our Special Interest (SPIN) clubs, or a combination of both; welcome! 4-H has something for everyone, no matter your interest area. Enrollment in 4-H is through ZSuite again this year and will open for re-enrollment/new enrollment by mid-October. As soon as the site is ready for you to access it, we will notify your 4-H club leader and post it on the Fulton County 4-H Facebook page. **We are excited to announce that we are again offering an "early bird" discount to all youth who enroll and pay by November 30.** The program fee will be discounted from \$20 to \$15 for each youth; this is a 25% savings! As a reminder, if you are enrolling in any livestock project, you need to do so by January 1, 2024. Please invite a friend to attend one of your club meetings and join the fun!

4-H Volunteers Needed

Do you like working with youth? Do you have an interest in sharing your knowledge with others? If so, we would love to have you volunteer your talents in the 4-H program. We are always looking for workshop leaders, SPIN Club leaders, Club volunteer leaders, department superintendents, judges, Youth Committee members, and more. You may volunteer as much or as little time as you have available. 4-H NEEDS YOU! Please contact Krista or Rachel by calling the office or email.

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4-H Hall of Fame Winner



Janis Blout, a 40-year Extension staff member in Fulton County, was honored during a special ceremony at the Illinois State Fair by Illinois 4-H for her selfless dedication to the University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development program. Over the span of Janis's career, 28 of her 40 years were spent as Fulton County's 4-H Extension Program Coordinator. Janis

made many lasting friendships with colleagues, volunteers, club leaders, and 4-H members during her time with Illinois Extension. Janis's attention to detail and making sure that each 4-H member had a wonderful 4-H experience during her tenure as 4-H Extension Program Coordinator in Fulton County was part of what truly makes her such a deserving recipient of this honor.

In 2023, 53 individuals were inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame. Illinois 4-H honors and celebrates extraordinary 4-H alumni, volunteers, and former 4-H staff. Those inducted have a track record of exemplary service to 4-H or outstanding career and community achievement and were nominated by county University of Illinois Extension staff. Each inductee received a commemorative Hall of Fame medallion at the Illinois State Fair 4-H Alumni & Volunteer Celebration event.

Janis enjoys spending her retirement with family, friends, and her beloved cats. Janis loves spending time with her grandchildren, who keep her very busy with their extracurricular activities and outings.



4-H Leader and Volunteer Meeting

All 4-H club leaders and assistant leaders are invited to attend the annual Fall Leaders Meeting on Monday, October 16 starting at 6:30 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Extension office. Please join us as we discuss changes for the 4-H year. We will have a bag of information for each club, so please send at least one leader/assistant leader from each club. The 2023-2024 Illinois 4-H Project Guides will be distributed at this meeting.

New Fulton County Cloverbud Club

The Cloverbud Cuties held their first meeting on Thursday, September 7 at the Extension office. 4-H Cloverbuds are youth who are age 5 – 7 as of September 1, 2023. This new club is led by Annie Van Unnik and Kaytlin Lehman and meets in both Lewistown and Canton. The next meeting is on Thursday, October 5 in Canton. For more information on this club, please call or email Krista.



Fall Achievement Program



The Fall 4-H Achievement Program will be held on Saturday, October 21 at 3 pm. The program will be held in the picnic pavilion

(across from the green merchant building) at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown. Please join us as we award our hardworking 4-H members and honor some dedicated volunteers. Picnic tables are available for seating, but feel free to bring your own lawn chair if you wish. Desserts will be donated and served by the Fulton County HEA members at the conclusion of the awards program. We hope to see you there!

4-H Federation Kickoff Meeting



The Fulton County 4-H Federation group had a kick-off meeting at Orchard Hill. Members elected new officers before they did a community service activity.

The members received a tour of the orchard as well as picked, prepped, and sorted apples to be sold.

They had a great time! The next meeting will held November 8, 2023 at the Fulton County Extension office at 5:30 pm. If you are interested in joining, please come to the meeting.

4-H Members Exhibited at State

Fulton County was well represented at the State Fair on August 13. This year, 57 Fulton County members exhibited a wide variety of general projects among the best of the best from all over the state. All youth who exhibited their non-livestock projects at the Illinois State Fair received a red, white, or blue recognition ribbon and an exhibitor button. In each class, a Champion and a Reserve Champion were also selected. Inspire Awards were given at the judges' discretion for work they wished to highlight or acknowledge. Congratulations to all these hardworking exhibitors!

Washita Bradford- Scrapbooking Intermediate- Inspire
Carysn Braun-Photography 1- Participant
Emmit Buban-4-H cooking 101 Cookies- Participant
Amelia Carley- Woodworking 2- Participant
Victoria Cooper- Shopping in Style: Intermediate- Inspire
Carter Curry-UAV Display- Inspire
Murphy Curry-UAV Display-Inspire
Jaclynn Delpierre- Food Decorating Beg-Participant
Henry Deppermann-Natural Resources 1- Champion
Lucinda Deppermann- Scrapbooking Inter-Participant
Mason Deppermann-Corn-Participant
Lydia Fouts-4-H Cooking 401 Sponge Cake-Reserve
Miles Gates- VA Glass-Champion
Emma Green- Leadership 3-Participant
Taylor Hendel-4-H Cooking 301 Dinner Rolls-Participant
Morgan Hendel-Computer Generated Art-Participant
Johanna Heuerman- Clothing 2-Sewn-Participant
Benton Janssen- Theatre Arts 1- Participant
Aliyah Janssen- Short or Narrative- Reserve
Makenna Johnson- Passport to the World-Participant
Breezi Kelly- Food Decorating Beginning- Participant
Isabella Kemp-Veterinary Science-Participant
Brittany Kline- Heritage Arts- Participant
Mallory Kotewa- Creative writing- Participant
Ally Lair- Floriculture A- Inspire
Emdon Larson- Clay- Participant
Oliver Leigh- Aerospace Display- Reserve
Bryce Mason- Sportfishing 1-Participant
Maggie Mason- Floriculture A- Participant
Tripton McClure-Woodworking 3- Participant
Brayton McCoy- Photography 2- Participant
Zack Miller- Small Engines- Participant
Aaliyah Naff- Floriculture A- Participant
Zaya Peirce- Food Preservation on canning- Participant
Krew Peirce- Outdoor Adventures 1-3- Participant
Macy Phillips-VA Quilting- You Can Quilt- Champion
Charlee Pittman- Fiber- Participant
Mallory Pratt- Wildlife 1- Inspire
Grayson Randolph-Veg Garden Display- Participant
Cole Ricker- Leather- Champion
Brady Robinson- Entomology 2- Inspire
Miles Robinson- Sportfishing 1-Participant
Addison Roddis- Animal Science 1- Participant
Elijah Rodeffer- Vegetable Gardening Display- Inspire
Logan Shelby- Entomology 2-Participant
Lane Shelby- 3-D Design/ Mixed Media- participant
Blake Shelby- Rock Hounds 2- Reserve

Caroline Spangler- Chalk/Carbon/ Pigment- Participant
Gavin Stephenson- Pebble Pub 1- Champion
Abigail Stevenson- Cooking 401 Sponge Cake Participant
Thoams Stevenson- 4-H Cooking 201 Scones- Participant
Ronny Stout- Pebble Pups 1- Participant
Danni Stout- Poetry- Participant
Mile Strode-Animal Science 2- Participant
Sara Stufflebeam- Chalk/Carbon/Pigment-Reserve
Morgan Tracey- Beekeeping 2- Champion
Kinslee Wickert- Clothing 3- Sewn Clothing- Participant

Shooting Sports State Shotgun Shoot



Photo by Candi Miller

The 2023 State Shotgun Shoot was held at Bunker Hill on Saturday, September 23. Fulton County 4-H Shooting Sports team was represented by Curtis Chambers, Zack Miller, Blake Shelby, Carson Stuckel, and Morgan Tracey.

The Fulton County 4-H team won 3rd place in the county division. Morgan Tracey was selected for the State team and placed 4th in the State. Congratulations to all 5 team members and their coaches, Lonnie Van Pelt and Lee Roy Knuppel.



Photo by Lonnie Van Pelt

New Family Welcome

Are you new to 4-H? Or are you interested in joining but want to know more? Join us at an upcoming New Family Welcome! These open-house style meetings will be held from 6 to 7:30pm at each respective Illinois Extension branch office. RSVP at <https://go.illinois.edu/NewFamilyWelcome>

- Fulton County | Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 15411 N IL 100 Highway, Lewistown, IL 61542
- Mason County | Wednesday, October 11 | 127 S High St, Havana, IL 62644
- Tazewell County | Thursday, October 12 | 1505 Valle Vista Blvd, Pekin, IL 61554
- Peoria County | Thursday, October 19 | 4810 North Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61614

Club Leader & Officer Training

Are you ready to make the new 4-H Year the best ever? Join us at the Club Leader and Officer Training on November 4, 2023 from 9:30am-3:30pm in Pekin. All adult club leaders and youth officers (and those interested in becoming a leader or officer) are invited to join us! Get tips and tricks about your position! Learn from other volunteers! Take home new activities, fresh ideas, and great resources! Registration coming soon.

Community Service Project Shows Support to Local Farmers



Photo by Heather DeCounter

The Smithfield Up and Coming 4-H Club met on Sunday, September 17 to kick off the new 4-H year with a business meeting, a community service project, fun, games, and a pot-luck meal. The club members and volunteers filled 63 farmer bags full of treats and snacks and personally delivered them to local farmers. These members wished each farmer a safe and happy harvest season. Thank you Smithfield Up and Coming 4-H Club for showing our hardworking farmers some love!



Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference 2023

Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference (JLC) is a fun-filled event which provides junior high 4-H members (7th & 8th grades) a look into opportunities in Illinois 4-H and helps start their leadership journey. Members gain skills related to 4-H projects and leadership, such as communication, decision making, and teamwork while engaging in hands-on activities. Conference will take place Nov. 4-5, 2023 in Decatur, IL.

Find more info and register by October 13 at <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/leadership-conferences/junior-leadership-conference>

SEPTEMBER IS

HUNGER ACTION MONTH!

[GO.ILLINOIS.EDU/HAM2023](https://go.illinois.edu/HAM2023)



In 4-H, we do a lot that focuses on food...growing it, cooking it, budgeting for it, etc. For some of our neighbors, having access to healthy food is a challenge. During the month of September, Illinois Extension joins organizations across the nation to bring awareness and help close the gap to food insecurity. Would you join us in the Hunger Action Month! There are lots of ways to get involved, like hunger walks, food drives, and more! Find out more at <https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2023-09-01-hunger-action-month>.



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Return Service Requested

We're going digital!

Thank you for your interest in staying informed about all the great things that 4-H is doing in Fulton, Mason, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties! As you may know, the Illinois 4-H State Office has begun sending information about state and national 4-H opportunities directly to you via email. Due to this change, and our desire to pass along timely and relevant local 4-H info, we've decided to switch our paper newsletters to an Eblast (email newsletter) format beginning in January 2024.

However, we want to be sure that you can still receive 4-H info in a format accessible for you. If you would like us to print the Eblast and mail you monthly hardcopies, please submit your contact info and mailing address at the link below. Additionally, if you are not currently receiving the biweekly 4-H Happenings Eblast, or you would like to add an additional email address to the Eblast list, you can provide that info as well.

Thank you so much for your time and understanding!



 go.illinois.edu/4-HNewsletter 

